

# Jericho School District Recognized For Academic Excellence



In Jericho's class of 2008, 98% of all seniors earned Regents diplomas and 84% of our graduates completed at least one Advanced Placement course. Jericho's percentages in both categories are among the highest in New York State.

Last year's student test results for the fourth and eighth grade New York State Assessments far surpassed the state norms and continue to be among the highest in the state.

## Jericho Named Among "Best Communities for Music Education in America"

The NAMM Foundation announced the results of its tenth annual "Best Communities for Music Education" survey, which acknowledges schools and districts across the U.S. for their commitment and support of music education in schools. "The potential of music to help children reach their full development is understood by the school districts represented in this year's survey results," said Mary Luehrsen, executive director, NAMM Foundation. "We celebrate these communities that are committed to providing access to music education programs and bettering the lives of their students."



## SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 19, 2009  
6 AM - 9 PM

Jericho Middle/High School Gym

## The New York State Public High School Athletic Association Presents Jericho High School with the "School of Distinction" Award



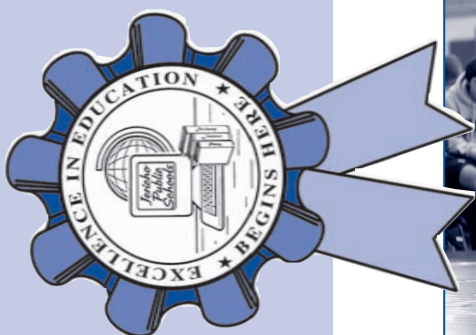
The New York State Public High School Athletic Association President Patrick Pizzarelli presented Jericho High School with the NYSPHSAA 2007-2008 "School of Distinction" Award. Jericho qualified for this prestigious award after 100% of all varsity teams during the 2007-2008 school year were declared Scholar/Athlete Teams with academic averages above 90%. Only 17 high schools in New York State qualified for this prestigious award for the 2007-2008 school year. This is the fourth year in a row that Jericho has been designated a "School of Distinction."

Budget Bulletin

May 2009

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Jericho





## BUDGET VOTE

On Tuesday, May 19, 2009, qualified Jericho School District residents will be eligible to vote on the proposed 2009-2010 school budget. Voting will take place in the Jericho Middle/High School gymnasium between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. In addition, two Board of Education seats and the proposed Jericho Public Library Budget will be on the ballot.

## PROPOSED 2009-2010 BUDGET

The Board of Education unanimously adopted the proposed 2009-2010 school district budget at an open meeting on March 19, 2009. The \$105.2 million budget represents a 3.77% budget increase and a tax levy increase of 3.94%. Since January, the district has hosted a series of public workshops to review the financial status of the school district and create a budget for the coming year. The Board of Education and district administration requested input from members of the school community at these workshops.

Although the budget being presented to voters is \$777,360 below the maximum allowable Contingent Budget cap set by New York State, residents must still be given the opportunity to vote. "State guidelines dictate how the dollars are allocated and specific types of expenditures are forbidden such as certain field trips, supplementation of the school lunch program, some capital projects and free use of school facilities and grounds by community organizations," explained Superintendent of Schools Hank Grishman. "A budget must be approved by voters to retain local control over the funds in order to spend any money in these restricted areas."



*Funding for the expansion of Project Lead the Way, a very successful high school engineering program, is included in the proposed budget. The second sequence, Civil Engineering and Architecture, will be added next year.*

## EFFICIENCIES, COST SAVINGS AND BUDGET MANAGEMENT

Jericho is a participant in a purchasing co-operative with more than 100 New York school districts for classroom, athletic, and custodial materials and supplies. Our participation in the Educational Data Co-operative has saved more than \$350,000 during this fiscal year. Over the past four years, our participation in this program has saved the district more than \$1.2M. In addition we have co-operative bids with 28 other school districts for plumbing, electrical, maintenance, lumber, and landscaping. It is estimated that a total annual savings of over \$700,000 is achieved by participating in these co-operative agreements for materials and supplies, as well as property and liability insurance and worker's compensation insurance.

The Jericho School District continues to use technology to help manage the budget. Finance Plus allows authorized program users to order materials and supplies on-line. Before the order is approved and processed, the program verifies that there is a budget allocation. The result is instantaneous budget management.

"We continually seek business efficiencies in order to contain budget increases without impacting the core of the outstanding educational program that is so highly valued in our community," said School Board President Barbara Krieger. "Our independent internal, external and claims auditors regularly report to the Board that our business operations are exemplary."

## REVENUE LOSSES

In addition to increasing costs that support district programs and facilities, changes in proposed State Aid are expected to create a loss in funding up to \$800,000 and the loss of Interest Income Revenue up to \$400,000.



*The National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform has named Jericho Middle School as a "School to Watch," a prestigious designation only garnered by two other middle schools in New York State this year. As a "School to Watch," Jericho Middle School has been recognized for being an exemplary school in terms of academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and effective organizational structure and procedures.*



## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED 2009-2010 SCHOOL BUDGET (PROPOSITION #1)

ESTIMATED EXPENSES	2008-2009	%	2009-2010	%
INSTRUCTION	\$62,632,309	61.76%	\$65,451,146	62.20%
CENTRAL SERVICES	3,462,078	3.41%	3,388,966	3.22%
CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	1,595,000	1.57%	1,595,000	1.51%
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS	6,716,108	6.62%	6,836,167	6.50%
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	5,546,677	5.47%	5,981,127	5.68%
COMMUNITY SERVICES	77,000	0.08%	62,000	0.06%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	18,618,545	18.36%	19,286,660	18.33%
DEBT SERVICE & UNDISTRIBUTED	<u>2,761,300</u>	<u>2.72%</u>	<u>2,631,138</u>	<u>2.50%</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$101,409,017	100%	\$105,232,204	100%

### INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

The Jericho School District continually evaluates curricular offerings and instructional strategies in light of research, changes in technology, state requirements, national standards, local expectations, and the interests and needs of individual students at all levels of learning across the wide spectrum of talents and abilities. Educational program needs and priorities for the coming year were determined accordingly.

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The Wilson Foundations Reading Program will be expanded to include all second grade classrooms for the coming year. This program supplements the Houghton Mifflin Reading Program. The Foundations phonological awareness, phonics and spelling program will now be fully integrated into the core reading program for all students in grades K-2.

Students who fall below grade level in reading by the end of second grade consistently demonstrate weakness in the graphophonic arena of reading, an essential skill in reading development. This program provides a consistent, coordinated graphophonic program across all elementary schools, utilizing a common language among the schools and the various instructors within the schools.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Middle School 7th grade Project History, a social studies and research skills elective, will be expanded to 8th grade next year. The class explores the world of historical research, writing, project preparation and presentation. Research themes include social, economic, political, and popular culture topics. This full year course, designed around National History Day and the New York State Archives competitions, serves as an introduction to the High School Social Science Research program.

#### HIGH SCHOOL

The proposed 2009-2010 budget will support the following high school educational program enhancements, all of which are based on student need, interest and enrollment. This includes:

- ✓ Expansion of Project Lead the Way, which is a very successful high school engineering program. The second sequence, Civil Engineering and Architecture, will be added next year.
- ✓ Chinese Language and Culture will be expanded to include Level III next year at the high school.
- ✓ Introduction of new high school course offerings including: Multivariate Calculus, Molloy College Creative Writing Program, Advanced Media Arts II, Introduction to Philosophy and BOLT (Building Outstanding Leaders for Tomorrow).



*The Wilson Foundations Reading Program is a consistent, coordinated graphophonic program at the elementary schools that increases fluency levels and student performance on New York State Assessments.*





## **JERICHO SCHOOL REPORT CARD**

2007-2008 School Year

**98%**

**REGENTS DIPLOMA PASS RATE**

(INCLUDES ALL STUDENTS)

**92%**

**REGENTS DIPLOMA PASS RATE  
WITH DISTINCTION**

(INCLUDES ALL STUDENTS)

**94%**

**4-YEAR COLLEGE ENROLLMENT  
RATE**

**99%**

**ENGLISH REGENTS PASS RATE**

**100%**

**MATH A REGENTS PASS RATE**

**94%**

**MATH B REGENTS PASS RATE**

**90%**

**8TH GRADE ELA ASSESSMENTS**

(MEET OR EXCEED STANDARDS)

**97%**

**8TH GRADE MATH ASSESSMENTS**

(MEET OR EXCEED STANDARDS)

**96%**

**4TH GRADE ELA ASSESSMENTS**

(MEET OR EXCEED STANDARDS)

**99.5%**

**4TH GRADE MATH ASSESSMENTS**

(MEET OR EXCEED STANDARDS)

## **REDUCTIONS IN STAFFING AND OPERATIONS**

Staffing changes are reflected in the budget. Please note that all faculty changes are based strictly on a current analysis of student enrollment numbers. None of these changes will impact program or class size.

Faculty:

- Elementary (K-6) changes include: -4 classroom teaching positions and -1.8 special area positions. Two teaching positions will be held in budget reserve to provide allowances for potential class splits due to new student enrollment before September.
- Secondary (7-12) level changes include: -1 middle school position, +4 high school positions and -1 special area position.

Clerical:

Reduction of 3.5 positions in district administrative offices.

Co-curricular Activities:

Saving in co-curricular costs will be achieved by reducing the numbers of elementary, middle and high school clubs. Principals are currently evaluating clubs to minimize the impact on students.

Athletics:

Cost efficiencies in athletics will be achieved by the elimination of 7th and 8th grade second teams, JV9 teams for softball, baseball, and girls and boys volleyball. These teams are not anticipated to have sufficient student enrollment next year. In addition a portion of ice hockey costs, several assistant coach positions and site supervisors will be eliminated.

Facilities:

There will be a reduction in overtime costs for custodians, maintenance and grounds personnel.

Funding for equipment, supplies, materials and textbooks has been reduced in the proposed budget.



*During the 2009-10 school year, the district will complete the implementation of a K-12 homework and course outline module that will allow parents and students to access homework assignments for every class online. A new student management system will contain a parent portal that will give parents access to student grades, attendance and other data.*

## **EXPANDING OPTIONS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS**

There will be an expansion of the collaborative teaching model at both the elementary and middle school levels. Special education teachers and regular education teachers provide instruction in classrooms with no more than 1/3 of the students in need of special services. This model raises the level of effectiveness with two professionals in the classroom, but is also more efficient as it reduces the number of aides assigned to the classroom or to an individual student. This authorized State Education Department model continues the Jericho spirit of full inclusion for students with comprehensive needs at a significant savings.

Tuitions are included in the budget for children with special needs placed either in other public schools, private placements, or a BOCES program. In addition, the costs for increased professional services (OT, PT, ABA, and Speech) for students in Jericho Schools, as well as students who attend private schools within the school district, are part of the budget.

Supporting special needs students continues to have a substantial impact on the budget. The district strives to provide essential academic support to all children, including those with a variety of disabilities. The New York State Education Department insists that these students meet the same rigorous requirements for a Regents diploma as all other students. "The fact that 98% of the 2008 graduating class received a Regents diploma is a clear indication that our tax dollars used to support every student are being well spent," said Board Vice President Joseph Lorintz.



## UNFUNDED MANDATES

In recent years, the New York State Legislature has mandated that school districts offer a wide range of services. There are approximately 78 unfunded mandates in the areas of administration, business, facilities, health, instruction, IT, personnel, private schools and transportation that NY State has compelled school districts to provide. Although NY State views these services as important, they do not provide Jericho with the appropriate financial resources to support them. While the intent of these mandates may be positive, they translate into added time, personnel and costs.

Federal and state regulations regarding services for ELL (English Language Learners) students are incorporated into the proposed budget. The U.S. Office of Education and the New York State Education Department mandate considerable services for all beginning ELL students. All Jericho English Language Learners in grades K-12 receive comprehensive ELL support.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The proposed budget will cover the costs for the implementation of the third year of a three-year capital improvement plan. The replacement of the roof at the Jackson School, which is included in the 2009-2010 budget, will cost approximately \$1.6M. The current roof, which is 20 years old, has reached its maximum life expectancy and is beginning to show significant signs of deterioration. Replacement of the roof will prevent potential damage to the interior of the school and additional repair costs in the future.

## TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT INCREASES

The three-year transportation contract negotiated in 2007 resulted in a yearly increase of 7% in the cost of student transportation.

## IMPROVEMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION PROCESSING

The proposed budget includes funds for the following improvements in technology and information processing :

- ✓ Replacement of 110 student and 20 staff workstations that are 7-8 years old
- ✓ Purchase of SMARTBoards to support K-12 instruction for regular and special education students
- ✓ Updating the Cantiague Computer Lab II
- ✓ Upgrade servers and network infrastructure
- ✓ New On-Line Homework Program



*A three-year Capital Improvement Plan is currently underway with the re-roofing of the Cantiague Elementary School scheduled for this summer. The proposed budget will provide funds to re-roof the Jackson Elementary School next year. New roofs will preserve an optimal learning environment for youngsters in all schools.*

## PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

A Public Hearing on the Budget will be held on Tuesday evening, May 12, 2009, in the High School Little Theater at 7:30 p.m. All members of the community are encouraged to attend.

There are two open seats on the Board of Education this year. Shawn Gladstone and Mark Basile are both completing their first three-year terms as trustees and seeking re-election. William Ferro is also a candidate. Members of the community will have an opportunity to learn more about each of the three candidates during "Meet the Candidate Night" on Tuesday evening, May 12, 2009 in the High School Little Theater at 8 pm. This is an "at large" election. The two candidates with the most votes will fill the two open seats beginning July 1, 2009.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Complete copies of the proposed 2009-2010 Jericho School District Budget are available on the district website and in the Central Administration Office at 99 Cedar Swamp Road. Reference copies are available for inspection at all district schools and the Jericho Public Library. Please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Superintendent of Schools at 203-3600, extension 3201, with any questions. For information or questions regarding registration, voting and absentee ballots, please call 203-3600, extension 3214.

# Budget Bulletin

## School Budget Vote & Board Election Public Library Budget Vote & Board Election:

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

6 AM - 9 PM

Jericho Middle/High School Gym

### Jericho Union Free School District

Jericho, New York 11753

(516) 203-3600

### Board of Education

Barbara Krieger, *President*

Joseph H. Lorintz, *Vice President*

Mark R. Basile

Shawn Gladstone

Claire M. Hochheiser

### Superintendent of Schools

Henry L. Grishman

### Newsletter Editor

Mary Marks



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[jerichoschools.org](http://jerichoschools.org)

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## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED 2009-2010 LIBRARY BUDGET (PROPOSITION #2)

ESTIMATED EXPENSES	2008-2009	2009-2010
LIBRARY MATERIALS	\$384,000	\$383,500
PROGRAMMING	\$70,000	\$87,500
PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS	\$8,000	\$8,000
FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT	\$56,000	\$76,000
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$604,950	\$642,600
SALARIES & BENEFITS	\$3,281,500	\$3,232,000
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	\$50,000	\$60,000
GASB 45		\$10,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$4,454,450</b>	<b>\$4,499,600</b>
<b>LESS TOTAL ANTICIPATED INCOME</b>	<b>\$99,950</b>	<b>\$106,200</b>
<b>TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TAXES</b>	<b>\$4,354,500</b>	<b>\$4,393,400</b>

Percentage Increase in the Library Tax Levy .89 %

Candidate running for one open Library Board seat

**Nancy Feldman**

*Copies of the complete Jericho Library Proposed 2009-2010 Budget are  
available at the Jericho Public Library for inspection.*

May 2009

## Voting Qualifications

Only persons who are qualified voters as of May 19, 2009 shall be permitted to vote in the election held on May 19, 2009 on matters affecting the Jericho School District and the Jericho Public Library.

A qualified voter is defined as:

- ◆ A citizen of the United States
- ◆ At least eighteen years of age
- ◆ A resident in the Jericho Union Free School District for thirty days or more preceding the budget vote at which he/she offers to vote.

Persons disqualified from voting under the provisions of Section 5-106 of the Election Law are not eligible to vote in school district elections.

**NEW VOTERS MAY REGISTER AND  
VOTE ON THE DAY OF THE ELECTION.  
THEY WILL BE ASKED TO PROVIDE  
PROOF OF RESIDENCY AND AGE.**